

From: Lora Werner/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 12/7/2011 12:27:38 PM
To: Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Robert Helverson/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC: William Early/R3/USEPA/US; Michael DAndrea/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; KarenD Johnson/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Victoria Binetti/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Borsellino.Ron@epamail.epa.gov; markiewicz.karl@epa.gov; TForrester@cdc.gov; CWelsh@cdc.gov; fahmed@state.pa.us; ballerton@state.pa.us; sostroff@state.pa.us
Subject: Re: Formal Request for ATSDR Health Consultation - Dimock PA Drinking Water/Marcellus Shale

Thank you, Jon.

We will transmit EPA's request to ATSDR HQ and use Karen as our primary point of contact for this effort. We will also discuss this request with our cooperative agreement partners at PADOH, per our standard procedures.

We do understand the very high importance of this issue and we will do our best to be timely in our review. I know the voluminous data involved and the amount of review we anticipate this health consultation work will require will factor into our timeline. We will keep EPA informed. One approach we have discussed is completing individual well-specific health consultation reviews, focusing on what appear to be the most impacted private wells.

Best Lora

Lora Siegmann Werner, ATSDR/CDC Region 3

----- Original Message -----

From: Jon Capacasa

Sent: 12/07/2011 11:41 AM EST

To: Robert Helverson; Lora Werner

Cc: William Early; Michael Dandrea; KarenD Johnson; Victoria Binetti

Subject: Formal Request for ATSDR Health Consultation - Dimock PA Drinking Water

Lora and Bob-

Thank you for your ongoing work in the informal review of drinking water data associated with the Dimock PA private drinking water contamination matter. At this time, we would like to formally request that ATSDR conduct a Health Consultation on the individual contaminant risks as well as the cumulative risk of the various compounds found in the private wells in and around the Dimock, PA area.

Bob has been actively involved in informally reviewing the voluminous data from multiple sources in the area associated with the PA DEP's investigation of the gas production wells drilled by Cabot Oil. We believe that the private wells in and around the Dimock area have been negatively impacted by the Cabot natural gas drilling process as evidenced by the presence of methane, butane, propane, ethane, ethene, etc., related gas compounds and also the presence of high concentrations of secondary contaminants like aluminum, iron, manganese, etc.

We have recently received additional data identifying additional organic chemicals, not previously identified in data received on December 2, 2011, covering August and September 2011 samples. Please add this to the data already under review. These more recent samples also show organic contaminants present in samples which we do not have maximum contaminant levels established in drinking water, including Butyl benzyl phthalate, Triethylene Glycol and 2 Methoxyethanol among others. We are unsure at what levels these individual contaminants present health risks, or what cumulative effects these and the secondary contaminants might have on the health of persons drinking the water. Given that the residents are potentially in contact through dermal, inhalation and ingestion pathways, if you should identify any potential health threats please notify us as soon as possible.

This is an urgent matter to the Agency so completion of your review within the next two months is requested. You should use Karen Johnson of our Ground Water and Enforcement Branch in Water Protection Division as your main point of contact on the data analysis and should you have any questions. Thank you for your

assistance with this matter.

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division
EPA Region III